

19. FIRST RECORD OF *CYRTODACTYLUS FASCIOLATUS* (BLYTH), THE BENT-TOED BANDED GECKO (SAURIA: GEKKONIDAE: GEKKONINAE) FROM GARHWAL HILLS

Cyrtodactylus fasciolatus (Blyth), the Bent-toed banded Gecko has so far been recorded from Shimla hills (Subathu) and Kumaon hills (Almora, c. 1,615 m) (Blyth 1860, Annandale 1914, Smith 1935). Recently, we collected a beautiful specimen (17.2 cm in total length) of the species from the crevices of a road side stone wall near Ghansali along Tilwara road, District Tehri-Garhwal (c. 950 m, coll. Akhlaq Husain and Pranjaleindu Ray) on the night of 25th May, 1992. The lizard, being nocturnal came out to feed on insects and two specimens were collected. One escaped. Earlier, another specimen (16.4 cm in total length) was collected from the vicinity of village Damdeval, District Pauri-Garhwal (c. 1,850 m, 24. iv. 1989, coll. Arun Kumar) during a survey of the area.

The present find from Garhwal hills is interesting from a zoogeographical point of view as it completes the interrupted range of its distribution, at least in one stretch of Western Himalaya. The species is apparently endemic in the Western Himalaya at low and moderate elevations, as pointed out by Annandale (1914).

All the specimens, were males as determined by the presence of paired postanal bones lying on each side of the base of the tail just behind the vent and the pores on all femoral scales (17-18 on each side). The preanal scales (6-7) are without pores. It is worth mentioning that according to Annandale (1914) the males are without femoral pores and with 10-12 preanal pores whereas Smith (1935) was not sure of the presence of preanal and femoral pores in males as he could examine only female specimens.

The present material agrees in general with the description of the species by earlier workers (op. cit.)

except for the following variations:

1. Diameter of ear-opening 3.0-3.3, 3 times in diameter of eye (vs. about half of the eye, Smith 1935).
2. Scales across the mid-belly between lateral folds 26 in Tehri specimen (vs. 28-34, Smith 1935).
3. Femoral scales 17-18 on each side (vs. 15-16, Smith 1935), all with pores (vs. no femoral pores in males, Annandale 1914).
4. Males with a row of 6-7 enlarged preanal scales behind femorals, without pores (vs. male with 10-12 preanal pores, Annandale 1914).

Besides, the following observations hitherto unrecorded, have been made:

1. Edge of eye-lid with two rows of backwardly directed pointed tubercles, arranged alternately.
2. Cone-shaped enlarged tubercles on anterior one-third of tail, arranged in transverse rows.
3. Four parallel ridges running longitudinally on middorsal of body and two such ridges on tail (more prominent in Tehri specimen).
4. Scales on ventral and ventro-lateral sides of body dotted with black.

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